DAT notes for January 5, 2012

Attendees: Angela Llaban, Edmund Yu, Kevin Reece, Andy Chu and Wenli Yin (DWR), Shing Kong (CCWD), Geir Aasen (DFG), Barb Byrne (NMFS), Tom Boardman (SLDMWA), RG Fernando and Owen Lu (MWD), Jon Speegle (FWS)

Salmonid Monitoring

Species*	Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST	Tisdale Weir RST	Knights Landing RST
Date	12/17-12/31	12/23/11-1/2/12	12/23/11-1/4/12
CHNF	88,625		
CHNLF	1,238		2
CHNW	18,990	3	2
CHNS	581		
CHN hatchery		2	1
SH wild	162		
SH hatchery			
*Chinook race based on length; CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead			

A summary of Chinook monitoring data can be found at:
http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm

Hatchery Releases: Coleman National Fish Hatchery (CNFH) released of~384,000 BY 2011 late-fall Chinook into Battle Creek on Jan 3. This is a production group that is 100% marked with an average fork length of 135 mm. Between Jan 4-11, CNFH also plans to release ~660,000 BY 2011 steelhead in to the Sacramento River at Bend Bridge. This group is 100% marked with an adipose fin clip only and has an average fork length of 135 mm.

Delta Monitoring

Trawl and Seine Report for 12/25/2011 to 12/31/2011				
Species*	**Beach Seines**	**Mossdale KDTR**	**Sacramento KDTR**	**Chipps Is MWTR**
CHNF	55			
CHNLF				
CHNW				
CHNS	9			
CHN hatchery				
SH wild				
SH hatchery				
DSM				43 (52-69mm)
LFS			1	12
SPLT				2
*Chinook race based on length; CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead, DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail				

Most Chinook were caught in the Sacramento area beach seines (Elkhorn, Discovery Park, Sand Cove, Miller Park, Garcia Bend and Sherwood Harbor).

Salvage

Salmonids - Salvage report for 12/27/2011 to 1/4/2012								
	CVP				SWP			
Species*	Adipose Clip Hatchery		Non-Adipose Clip Wild		Adipose Clip Hatchery		Non-Adipose Clip Wild	
	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss
CHNF								
Total to Date								
CHNLF			4	3				
Total to Date			15	10				
CHNW								
Total to Date								
CHNS								
Total to Date								
SH							0	0
Total to Date							4	17
*Chinook race based on length; Adipose clips indicates hatchery stock; Non-adipose clip indicates natural origin								

Smelts and Others – Salvage report for 12/27/2011 to 1/4/2012				
	CVP		SWP	
Species	Salvage	Total to Date	Salvage	Total to Date
DSM				
LFS				
SPLT	4	177	16	3,707
GST				
WST	0	60		
DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail, GST=Green sturgeon, WST=White sturgeon				

This report covers the period from 12/27/2011 to 1/4/2012. One late-fall Chinook was salvaged at the federal facility (salvage=4). No Chinook have been salvaged at the state facility.

Chinook salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon salvage information is also posted at ftp://ftp.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/ and you can locate the tables under folder “DOSS salvage tables" (you can also try http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/Default.aspx) and click on “salvage FTP site”).

Smelt Monitoring

CDFG's Smelt Larval Survey (to track larval longfin smelt distribution) will begin on 1/9/12 and the Spring Kodiak Trawl (to track adult delta smelt distribution) will begin on 1/17/12.

Smelt Working Group

After the 1/5/12 call, Leigh Bartoo (FWS) provided the following update:

The SWG met by conference call on January 3 and discussed all pertinent hydrological, environmental, and operational data, including survey data. The group decided there was no need for a recommendation. The next meeting is scheduled for January 9 at 10am, but if there is no change in survey data or conditions before then, the meeting may be cancelled.

DOSS

DOSS met on Tuesday 1/3/12 and evaluated fish monitoring data. DOSS provided no advice to NMFS and WOMT.

DOSS recognized that as of January 1, the Projects are to manage exports to target a -5,000 cfs OMR flow per Action IV.2.3. The OMR flow restriction can change depending on loss density of older juvenile Chinook. One trigger is based on the winter-run juvenile production estimate (JPE). NMFS is currently working on the final JPE and the official estimate should be available within the next few weeks.

The winter-run escapement is low, lowest in the last 10 years. If the JPE based trigger calculates to less than 2.5 fish/TAF, a minimum value of 2.5 fish/TAF will be used for the OMR trigger.

There was a question regarding Chinook run assignment and if it is based on length criteria, genetics or a combination of both. Currently run assignment is based on the length-at-date criteria that are available.

Operations

Summary for January 5, 2012			
SWP		**CVP**	
Clifton Court (cfs)	4,000	**Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)**	1900
Outflow (cfs)	5,900	**American - Nimbus (cfs)**	1,750
Feather - Oroville (cfs)	1,750	**Sacramento - Keswick (cfs)**	5,000
San Luis Total (TAF)	964	**Stanislaus - Goodwin (cfs)**	
San Luis Share (TAF)	1,937	**San Luis Share (TAF)**	
X2 (Km)	> 81		
E/I (%)	43.8		
OMR (daily)			
OMR 5 day (cfs)			
OMR 14 day (cfs)			

Daily operations summary can be viewed at:
http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/deltaops.pdf

Currently OMR is a controlling factor project operations. The Projects plan to continue monitoring OMR flows and if need be, may reduce exports to meet criteria.

Balanced conditions were declared starting Dec 1, 2011.

There was a question on Rock Slough chloride levels. DWR anticipates the tide coming in. Salinity will increase with the tide and is being monitored closely.

Keswick releases from Shasta reservoir will drop to 4,500 by next Friday (Jan 13). CVP will reduce releases by increments of 100 cfs starting Monday, Jan 9 until 4,500 cfs is reached on Friday. Releases are reduced accordingly to reach a balance between protecting salmon eggs and fry, while maintaining storage conditions to meet temperature requirements in the spring. Agencies will reevaluate Keswick releases in the next week or two.

The weather forecast shows dry conditions for the next ten days.

Next meeting: The next DAT conference call is scheduled for January 12, 2012 at 11:00am.